

May God Grant You A Merry Christmas And A Joyous New Year

V. F. BELIAJUS, Rt. 2, Box 61, Mobile, Alabama

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 19, DECEMBER, 1944

OVER HERE

Lt. "Scotty" Bain must have taken the joke about the "fast working G-I on furlough" seriously. Here is what happened on his way to Chicago for a four day furlough: "I am engaged! After 31 years of toil, struggle, single blessedness (?) and dreams, I met the right girl! We met on the streamliner out of L. A. and four days later we visited Fields in Chicago to buy the diamond. Sudden, you say? Well, m'boy, she was the one I wanted and I only had a short time to make up my mind, and I did. Her name is Lois Clark, a student nurse at Wesley Memorial in Chicago." Well!! Scotty is now at Ft. Knox, Ky. . . . F-O Robert T. Keller and Lt. Charles Rudauskas are presently the only two LYS'rs left in the United States out of a group of 30. Bob is at Lemoore Field, Calif. and Charles is at Clovis, N. M. . . . Our poet friend, Pfc. Jon Beck Shank got the fullest benefit out of his furlough, visiting friends in New Orleans, Florida, Maryland, Washington, D. C., Philadelphia, Pottsville and Reading, Pa., and New York City, too, where he signed a contract with the publishers of his volume of poetry. He also attended a local folk festival at Washington. Whew! Now he is back to Texarkana, Texas. . . . Sgt. Mordy Arnold (SOE) acted "best men" at the wedding of Virginia Egan (SOE), girl-pal of his sister, Grace, to Lt. John E. Williams, an Annapolis grad. the wedding was held at the Methodist church of Cherry Point, N. C., near where the boys are stationed. . . . Pfc. Ben Ford Cooper, heavily decorated Anzio vet, while enjoying his furlough in Robertsdale, Ala., lost one "major battle" to a girl he dated. He had two "major battle stars" to his credit, but one can never win a battle with a woman. . . . Eddie Wolod, Y-1C (LYC), while crossing the continent to Frisco, passed through Mobile, but Alas! We did not see each other. . . . Watch Cpl. Jimmy Casebere (SOE), he is now in the midst of cultivating a career as a short story writer, and he is good! . . . Says Louis Kohltyn, MM-3C, "Only God and the Navy knows what the next moves are." He was certain to go across but instead landed in Port Hueneme, Calif. to get additional gunnery training. . . . While my Cousin Gene expressed regarding the uncertainty prior going across as "Rumors are constant and knowledge is absent." Doesn't it sound classy? F-O Parker Totten, (SOE), divided his furlough time between Fairhope and home, Knoxville, Tenn., and his gal, and New York and his sister, Grace. Now he is in Maxton, N. C. . . . Wave Charlotte Sarett, (LYS), finished Hunters College, N. Y., and is now a Seaman 1-C. and because of her "appearance, personality, intelligence, etc.," she was chosen to work in the 6th War Loan Drive, and of all places to be sent—to the Navy Pier in Chicago! Wonderful! . . .

OVER THERE

The situation in China was familiarized to me in a letter by 1st Lt. John L. Soong (Int. Hse.). He writes: "Things are not as good as they should be in this theatre. Although the Chinese are putting up a desperate and a courageous fight—human flesh cannot withstand a mechanized army. Somehow, the supplies and equipment just can't reach the amount required and the meager force of the small air power in China is like a drop of water in a bucket. We all hope that the war in Europe may terminate real soon, so that they can shift some real army and air force over here. The China I left behind in 1937 is not the same China I'm experiencing now. The war has knocked China down many times and it is a wonder to me how she can still carry on. The inflation is terrible, and we American soldiers have lost the sense of money value. I dare not go to town unless I have thousands of dollars (CN) in my pocket. A meal for two costs over one thousand CN. One vitamin tablet is sold at 150 CN. They count money here in the billions. The poorest of them all is the Chinese soldier. Quite a few of them are dying of starvation. The food here is just edible and the U. S. Government is now passing out vitamin pills to help us subsist." John remarks that the Chinese students in the U. S. hardly realize what China is going through. Not only the Chinese but nor do the others know much of the situation there. John has been overseas 15 months now, 10 of which were spent in China. He got his first 10 day furlough on October 20th and visited his brother in Chunking whom he hasn't seen in 7 years, and the reunion was a most happy one. From India, S-Sgt. Stanley Sienkiewicz, who is doing a good job bombing Japanese held territory in the B-29's, writes that they live now in comfort. "Barracks with electric lights, dishes in the mess hall and an NCO club with a bar." . . . Cpl. A. Lankus (LYS) is now "P. M., N. Y.," while Pfc. Joe Simbal (LYS) left for the Pacific. To both "Geriausio Pasisekimo" which in English would require the following many

KAZY and VYTS- IN.

VILTIS

(HOPE)

FAIRHOPE - - - ALABAMA

CIVVIE REPORTERS

Int. Hse. _____ Mrs. Board & Mrs. Chen
LYS. _____ Lillian Cinskas
NWUH _____ Celia Giebutowska
SOE. _____ Edna Rockwell



LITHUANIAN

Linkiu linkamai praleisti Sv. Kalėdas
ir gerioj sveikatoj sulaukti Naujus Metus.

POLISH

Zycze wam wsziptkim wesolych Swiat
Bozego Narodzenia i szczesliwego Now-
ego Roku.

HEBREW

Simkhat Khag Ha'Moledet v'Shana
Tova.

GERMAN

Ich wuensche Ihnen ein froeliches
Weihnachten und ein Gluecklichen Neu-
jen Jahr.

SPANISH

Feliz Navidad y prospero Ano Nuevo
de salubridad.

FRENCH

Acceptez mes meilleurs et sincerés
vœux de joyeux Noel et de bonne et
heureuse Annie.

ITALIAN

Felicita et salute per Natale et buono
Primo D'Anno.

THIS 'N' THAT

IN THE NAME OF THE BOYS

The Season's greetings are extended to all patrons who make this publication possible. To the Civvie Reporters who tell us of the news taking place back home, and to all correspondents who are informative. Best wishes are also extended to Mr. A. F. Gaston, Mrs. Frances Gaston Crawford and to Mr. Ned Dougherty of The Fairhope Courier staff, printers of Viltis. To all and to every reader a Happy Christmas Tide.

HEAR YE!

With next month I'd like to institute a "Happy Birthday" section. Therefore, please send in your dates, or the dates of your friends who are Viltis readers. You need not reveal your age, merely dates. We do want to wish them a Happy Birthday so do not deny us the pleasure. Dates of those born in January are needed pronto.

POETS

Viltis is proud to have among its readers poets too. From now on we shall have contributions by Pfc. Jon Beck Shank, whose collection of poetry will be published this spring by Alfred Knopf Co., and by Pvt. Gene Wierbach who is also preparing a volume of G-I poetry for publication. We hope other G-I readers will also contribute their creative work. A short story is coming up in the next issue written by Cpl. Jimmy Casebere. Who else? Let's have more of your work and less of VFB.

Thanks are also extended to Mr. E. Casebere from Dayton, Ohio, brother of Jimmy, for sending a group of cuts for the "funny" section. All of this will add color to Viltis.

FOLK FESTIVAL

Sarah Gertrude Knott, national director of the Folk Festivals, informed that the Festival this year will be held again in Philadelphia on May 10 to 13, inclusive. As it stands now, Philadelphia will be the permanent home for the festivals and after the war it will also include nations participating from Europe, Asia, Australia and America.

Sgt. M. R. Arnold, Cherry Point, N. C.-Fairhope; Lillian Cinskas, Chicago; Paul Gaston, Fairhope; Mrs. E. Laraway, Fairhope; Mr. and Mrs. R. Rockwell, Fairhope; V. A. Rollo, Bkr. 2-C and Mrs. Rollo, San Francisco, Cal.; Evelyn Kazy, Chicago; Sgt. C. R. Dulinsky, Marianas-Chicago; Hugh Jones, Chicago; T-5 Edw. Papciak, Pacific-Chicago.—(To be continued).

OVER THERE

words: "The very best of luck in accomplishing your task." I think we should talk Lithuanian, it tells more in less words. . . . Of Holland writes Cpl. Casimir Zurawski (NWUH) that it is not what he thought it would be. "If the people wear wooden shoes that's because of the war. Their cities are fairly modern and would put some of ours to shame. This place brings to my mind the time we danced in Holland, Mich." Lt. Dr. Frank Johnson (Int. Hse.) became so attached to one French family that the parting caused him to have a lump in his throat. Frank enjoyed the French folk songs. . . . Sgt. Myron Leach with the Special Service Company did not mean to pull any wool over the censors eyes to tell where he was or where he will be, he merely stated it in musical terms. "I'm listening to Debussy now, but I'll be hearing soon Wagnerian music." I hope you'll hear Wagnerian music soon in what's left of Berlin. T-S John Giron (Int. Hse.) is with the Med. Det. of the 2nd Filipino Division and back to his native land. He volunteered soon after Pearl Harbor. . . . After a brief stay in the States, my cousin, Lt. Fred Charnes, 1st Navigator on a B-29, returned for duty to the Pacific. He is a veteran of the North African, India-Burma-China campaigns and the wearer of an air medal. His brother, Lt. Alvin, a 1st Pilot of a Liberator, is in Italy while the youngest brother, Eugene, is in Laredo, Texas, getting training as a gunner in the nose of a bomber. . . . Jack Smith, S-1C, (SOE) wrestled with an octopus off Saipan. Of all things to wrestle with! . . . Herman Stuersel, Radioman 1C, (SOE) is expected in Fairhope for a long awaited furlough. He is presently in the Pacific, while his brother, Willie, is now in Holland after "visiting" England, France and Belgium. . . . Viltis has a few new friends among its readers. From overseas, the Marianas, I had the pleasure of hearing from 1st Lt. Lawrence Vincent, who is also a friend of my brother, Kazy, with whom he is in the same division. Lt. Vincent is a linguist and holds the position of a Regimental Japanese language officer. His home is Detroit and he is also a folk dance fan and attended Henry Ford's folk dances at Dearborn, Banzai! . . . Lee Bartkus, S-1C, (LYS) in his short career as a sailor, has to his credit 70,000 miles of travel and loves it. Evenings Lee helps out projecting movies. As a whole, Lee's letter was a very happy one. . . . The army is trying to make Pvt. Ali Spear (LYS) an indispensable man, so they placed him in a Steno school. He heard of a Swedish folk dance group on Oahu, so he hopes to look them up and do some Schottisches. . . . My cousin, Lt. Walter Baker, USNR, came home after a year in the Pacific just in time to miss his kid brother, Herbert, who just finished his furlough and went the other way. Wally was very disappointed not to get to see him. Then, when Walter reached New Guinea, lo and behold! There was Herbert!

AND THOSE YOU LEFT BEHIND

CHICAGO.—Felix "Blondie" Thomas (LYS), formerly a Coast Guard is now a student of the U. of Chicago. . . . Prof. Alfredo Manat (Int. Hse.) enjoys his position as an instructor at Howe Military Academy, Howe, Ind., considered the best in the country and congratulatory letter to that affect was received from the War Department. Alfredo is in charge of the Social Science Department, teaching sociology, American government economics and history. . . . Jane Matecuans (LYS), enjoyed the company of F-O Bob Keller while he was on his furlough. Jane is studying psychology and Spanish and also ukelele, but she says that no one likes her tune. . . . Helen Lankus (LYS), is attending college at Ames, Iowa. Before she came to Ames she spent a few pleasant months in the company of Al before he was sent across, and lived in Yuma and Casper, Arizona, and Kansas City, Mo. She extends to all her regards. The same from us to you. . . . Prescilla Kempinski Pazik sent me one of the happiest letters to receive from a married girl. She seems to be thrilled with everything. Thrilled with her husband, Cpl. Clifford, thrilled with the little town of Tyler, Texas, nicknamed the City of Roses. We all certainly hope you will stay happy for ever after with Cliff and baby, too. . . . Helen Arndt and Emily Czernek (NWUH), are trying to become senioritas and have a good start for they actually know how to say now "Buenos noches, amigos." How brilliant! . . . The Harvest Festival was held during December 2nd and 3rd instead the traditional Thanksgiving week-end. . . . Algirdas Brazis is a soloist with the Chicago Civic Opera, and has major roles. Good luck, Algird, we are thrilled with the news. . . . Adele Druktenis, also joined the Opera. . . . Now, with Anna Kaskas enjoying a foremost position as a soloist with the Metropolitan Opera Company and as a concert singer, Aldona Bulota as a recreational and dance teacher at De Paul University, and Vytautas Bacevicius holding the position of a noted concert pianist, the Liths are coming into prominence in the musical field.

FAIRHOPE

Our lovable SOE reporter, Edna Rockwell, is editor of the SOE paper OMGR and is also studying piano, singing and clarinet. My, oh my, busy! It seems that Tommy Nichols is also taking up clarinet. I wonder what's all the blowing about, Vance Mason, who is attending college at Shreveport, La., is the business manager of the college paper, Elizabeth Slaughter, no doubt, is proud of him. The town gals are a bit jealous of her, claiming that Little Sister gets all the popular boys of Fairhope and still insists she is true to Vance. . . . Amid tears and presents Carolyn Nichols left for Jackson, "Mrs. Ippi", to attend Millsaps College and is staying in the